A poore mannes beneuolence to the afflicted Church.

✠

By John Fitz

Actes. 3. a

✠ Golde and siluer haue I none such as I haue geue I vnto you

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¶ Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from our Lorde Jesus Christ, be with all that are afflicted for the testimonie of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WElbeloued in our sauiour Jesus Christ, vnderstandyng of your great trouble and the greuons persecutiõs of our brethrẽ in Christ in Spaine and els where, I could not but somewhat accordyng to my dutie, and to the talẽt which God hath geuẽ me, write (although it were but smal) trustyng that it should be to the coumforte of those, that for the truth be in anie place afflicted: vsyng none other order, nor collecting no other Scripture (as a perticuler thyng to treat of) but wholly to refer you, accordyng to your godly vnderstandyng, to the epistle of S. Paule to Timothe

2. 2. Tim. i

where he noteth fyrst vnto him with what he is indued, that is with an vnfeigned faith, in the selfe same faith which dwelt before in his grãdmother Lois, and in his mother Eunica. And here S. Paule comforteth not only Timothe, that his grandmother and mother was such: but also cõforteth them (if they were then alyue) that they had such a sonne. Here is also to be noted, what coumfort parents and children may haue ech of other (yf they be Godly) but I leaue that to be cõsidered. But to the matter, sith that he knoweth wherewith he is indued, he willeth him to be stedfast, for God (saith he) hath not geuẽ vs the spirite of feare: but of power, and of loue, and of a sound mynde. Be not ashamed of the testi-

Timothe is indued with an vnfeigned faith.

Paule & Timothe, is of one spirite,

testimonie of our Lord, neither of me his prysoner: but be partaker of the aflictions of ỹ gospell, accordyng to the power of GOD. That worthy thyng which was cõmitted vnto thee kepe, through the Holy ghost.

Paule is prysoner in Rome.

*They of Asia be turned from me, of which sort are Phigelus and Hermogenes. Thus Paule by a certaine maner dismaieth Timothe: yet not wtstandynge he encorageth him againe, and willeth him not only to be stedfast because he is endued wt the spirite and power of God: but also to be patient, though all should depart from him, and he put in prison: yet though Phygelus and and Hermogenes, be gone from the preaching of the Gospel: yet Onesiphorus wyll visite thee in prison, & wyl not

2. Tim. 2

The faithfull wyl sticke to one, when the wicked wyl forsake him.

be ashamed of thy chaynes.
Wherby Paule doth geue to vn
derstande, though the greatter
nūber forsake thee: yet ỹ faith-
ful in Christ wyl not leaue thee
And therfore saith Paule, looke
what thou hast heard of me by
many witnesses, ỹ put forth.
As who should say: ỹ hast bene
a diligēt learner, and thou hast
nothing, but ỹ which is appro-
ued by many witnesses, go fore-
ward ī it, make no stay, detract
no time, lookyng this way or ỹ
way, be not as a reed shakē with
ỹ wynd: but lyke a bould soldi-
our of Jesus Christ, suffer aflic-
tions. Therfore I beseech you,
you that haue learned in Gods
scoole, and haue your doctrine
approoued by many witnesses,
stand stedfast in it: be pacient.
Though your freendes, kinred,

or

or cuntry men departe from it, Gala. 4.
be you feruent, continue you
ſtyll, let your light ſo ſhyne be- Math. 5
fore men, that they may glorify
your father which is in heauē.
Therfore ſaith Paule, I ſuffer
al thynges, & for the elects ſake
it is, that they might alſo ob-
taine the ſaluation which is in
Chriſt Jeſus, w eternall glory.
For yf (ſaith he) with Chriſt we
ſuffer, we ſhal alſo raigne with
him. Yf we deny him, he alſo
wyl deny vs. Therfore ſaith he,
ſtudie to ſhew thy ſelf approued
vnto GOD, a workeman that
needeth not to be aſhamed. For God reueleth to the faithfull, the wickednes of the time before it come.
know that in the laſt dates ſhal
come perillous times, for men
ſhall be louers of themſelues,
couetous, boaſters, proude, cur
ſed ſpeakers, diſobedient to pa-
rents, vnthankefull, vnholye.

2. Tim. 3 withoute naturall affections, truce breakers, false accusers, intemperate, fyerce, despysers of them which are good, traytours, heady, high mynded, louers of pleasure more then the louers of God, hauyng a shew of godlines, but haue denied ỹ power thereof. Tourne away therfore from such. As Jannes and Jambres wstood Moyses, so do these also resist the truth, men of corrupte myndes, reprobate concernyng the faith: but they shal preuayle no longer. For their madnes shalbe euidēt vnto all men, as theirs was. To trauel in explicating of the matter I need not, for ỹ words be so playne, that it may passe without: and therfore I leaue it to your good considerations, puttyng you in remembraunce

This is the state of our time, we are therfore in a perillous time.

Exod⁹. 7

of

of that which is written by S. Paule to the Romaines. That whatsoeuer is writtē, is written for our learnyng, & for our coumfort. But thou Timothe, thou hast knowen my doctrine, not in part, but in whole. Fully thou hast knowen it, my maner of liuyng to my doctrine is not vnknowne vnto thee. My mynd, purpose, and wyll, thou knewest: my faith thou vnderstodest, my long suffryng, loue, and pacience, is not hyd from thee: and also my persecutiōs, and afflictions, which came vn to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Listra, thou art not ignorant of, which persecutions I suffred: but from them al the Lorde deliuered me. Therfore Timothe, yf thou continue in this doctrine which thou haste begun, Rom. 15. 2 Tim. 3. The Lorde only doeth deliuer from trouble

begun: kepe the manner of lyuyng to thy doctrine, as ỹ hast had example of me, beyng faithfull, beynge readye to beare all greefes, showyng all loue, and vsyng pacience: then be sure ỹ the Lorde in persecutions, wyl deliuer thee. For this I tel thee of a truth, that al that wil liue godly in Christ Iesus, shal suffer persecutions. And here S. Paule geueth Timothe a watch word, and not to him alone, but to al pastors and teachers. Not to pastors & teachers only, but to al people in generall, of what callyng soeuer they be of, whether they be high or lowe, rych or poore, oulde or young, kyng or subiect, yf he wyl liue godly in Christ Iesus (saith S. Paule) he then must suffer persecutions. But here perchaũce you

A speeal comfort.

2 Tim. 3.

A watch word to the godly of all states, geuẽ by S. Paule to Timothe.

you wyl aske me how it may be that Kynges should be persecuted for the testimonie of Jesus Christ, and who it is that dare persecute them for the same? A question.

But whether Kynges haue ben persecuted or no, I referre it to them to tell, which are skylfull in ỹ Chronicles, and who they were that did persecute them. Aunswer.

Paule doth not say here, yf ye liue godly in ỹ godlynesse of the Augustines, that you shall be persecuted: or in ỹ godlynes of the Fraũcisca nes, that you shal haue any trouble take holde of you: or yf you liue godly in the godlines of ỹ Benedicts, or Dominickes and such like, that any hurte shall come vnto you. The godlynes of the papacy, is not persecuted.

But yf you lyue godly in Christ Jesus (saith Paule) you must suffer persecutions. Well saith 2. Tim. 3.

our

Math.5 our Sauiour Christ, happy are ye when men reuile you & persecute you for my names sake, for you shal not lose your rewarde.

The faithful hated.

Math.24 For this I tel you, you shall be hated of all men for my names sake, therfore yf the world hate you: know ye, that it hated me

Christ was hated.

Iohn.16 before you, but for as much as ye are not of the world, but ỹ I haue chosen you out of ỹ world therfore doth ỹ world hate you.

Wherfore the faithful is hated of the world.

Luke.12 But be of good chere, I haue ouercome the worlde: and therfore feare not little flocke, for it is your fathers wil to geue you a kingdom. And feare not them

The faithful shall be rewarded with a kyngdome

Math.5 that can kyl the body, but feare him that can cast both body and soule into hel fyre, be faithfull

Apoc.2 They shalbe crouned with the crowne of eternall ioy lyfe. therfore vnto the death, and I wyl geue thee ỹ crowne of lyfe. Therfore (my beloued) sith that

we

we haue such swete promises of God ỹ father, in his son Christ Jesus: let vs cleaue vnto him, he wyll performe them, he neuer fayled none that put their trust in him, as ỹ prophet Dauid saith, I haue called vpon ỹ Lorde and he hath heard me, I haue trusted in the Lord and he hath holpen me, he therfore often times crieth, as in the .12. psalme. Help me O God, in the 69. psalm. Saue me O God, in the .16. psalme. Preserue me O God, in the .30. psalme. I haue called vpō the Lord in my trouble, and he hath heard me, and deliuered me. Therfore doe you now with the prophete Dauid in the .66. psalme, burste forth and saye: Thou (O God) haste and doest proue vs. Thou also, hast and wylte trye vs, euen as

God is faithfull

Psal. 12

Psal. 69

Psal. 16

Psal. 30

Psal. 66

Siluer

Siluer is tried. Thou broughtest vs in to the snare, and laidst trouble vpon our loynes. Thou suffredst men to ryde ouer our heades, we went & go through fyre & water, but we know that ỹ wylt bryng vs in to a comfortable place. Thus said Christ to
John. 14 his disciples, that where I am, there shal ye be also. Therfore we besech thee most merciful father, to ayd vs w̃ thy grace, and assist vs w̃ thy holy spirite, that we mai perfectly learn to know thee to be our creatour, & Iesus thy son to be our only sauiour, and ỹ Holy ghost to be our only sanctifier. To these three, as to one eternal God, be all honour and glory, now and for euermore. Amen.

Thy our brother in Christ,
Ihon Pits.

¶ To the afflicted Churcy, in Scotland, Fraunce, Spayne, or any other land.

BE of good chere my brethren all,
doe not now faint nor quayle:
But to the Lord doe ye now call,
lest that in truth ye fayle.
For Sathans ye passe not a pin,
though that he rule and rage:
His power it is to smal and thin,
the truth for to asswage.

¶ Though Kyngs be strong, and wyne
& wom̃ thought to be: (likewise
Yet Truth (in any maner wyse) 3. Esdr.
more stronger shall ye sée.
Kynges haue fayled, and also wyne,
and women haue not stod:
Truth hath remaind from time to time
as prowfe we haue full good.

Truth was god, & kept styl his place,
when Woman had a fall:
Truth was styl Truth & had his grace,
when Woman was in thrall. Gene.3
What Truth hath said, pformd it was
as in all states we sée,
Let Woman speake whats cum to pas
let her tel tale for mé.

As

As touching wyne, what shal I say?
his force I thinke not great:
Prou. 31. Although the hart be mery make,
yet is he best with meat.
The empty body doeth not gree,
with wyne, though it be good:
Salomon to the sory (saith he)
geue wyne to chere their mood.

¶ Geue good wyne (Salomon doth say)
then is there that doth fayle:
In Truth there is no maner way,
that can make it to quayle.
Psal. 117 For Truth shal stand both firme & fast,
and kepth his tast full swete,
When wyne and women shal be past,
and Kynges layd vnder fete.

John. 14 ¶ With Truth is no comparison,
no match with him may be:
For God and Truth, they be both one,
vncompared to be.
1. Joh. 4 Who dwelth i truth, doth dwel in God
and God in him lykewyse:
So, dwel in Truth, & then haue God
to make thee perfect wyse.

For who against the truth doth kicke,
against God kicketh to:

Then

Then is he lyke to fall on pʒicke,
which wyll make him crie wo.
When Truth did ſpeake in *Noes* daies, Gene.7.
wyllyng them to repent:
Leſt that they periſht in their waies,
they wold not, but felt dent.

¶ Truth to the Zodomites pʒeached Gene.9.
by Lot, this is certayne:
Their licenſiouſnes he counſayled,
that they ſhould not maintayne.
The Zodomits wold not Truth heare
but kept their whole deſyʒe:
Therfoʒe they paid foʒ that ful deare,
foʒ burnt they were with fyʒe.

¶ What got kyng Pharao foʒ hꝫ paine Exod.14.
when truth he did purſue?
He and his hoſt were dʒound certayne,
as *Exodus* doth ſhewe.
Siſara, and *Abimelech* to, Judi.4.
of women were both ſlayne: and.9.
The booke of Judges declareth ſo,
which is both true and playne.

¶ *Hieroboam*, becauſe he wʒought
againſt the well knowne Truth:
Baaſa to death his ſtocke hath bʒought,
and thereon had no ruth.
What became of quéene Jeʒabell, 4.Re.9.

A powre mans beneuolence

the Truthes great enemie:
Dogs did eat her in Jezraell,
Truth sayd it should so be.

4. Re. 10 ¶ *Ahabs* house, by *Iehu* was slayne,
for that he did conspyre:
Gods prophets for to put to payne,
and geue them death for hyre.
4. Re. 25 So read we of Zedechias,
which troubled Jeremie:
That both his eyes destroyed was,
and he felt miserie.

Actes. 12 ¶ What is sayd of Herode the kyng,
that sought the Truth to kyll:
Who was ful of most deadly styng,
to wurke his cruell wyll.
His kyngly power could not p̄uayle,
nor helpe him in his nede:
Whē stinking wormes did him assayle
which on his corps did fede.

How strong kynges be when God doth stryke,
the scripture doth wel sho:
In other bookes we haue the lyke,
we need not far to go.
Yf that the kyng wyl needs reioyce,
let him reioyce in this:
That he hath God to heare his voyce,
to kepe him from all mis.

Therfore

Therfore let kyngs now serue ỹ Lorde and not put Truth to slight:
But in the same for to accorde,
lest that they lese their might.
Let them that doe the Truth embrace,
embrace and kepe it styll:
For kynges shal not the Truth deface,
though that it be their wyll. Psalm.2

What kings haue doen wt Satans ayd it is not now vnshowne,
What women haue thereto assayd, it is not much vnknowne.
What wine ī bākets hath forth sought,
many the tale can tell:
How by ỹ way Truth hath ben bought
as time can show full well. Exod.1 Math.2 Mar.6. Luth.14.

¶ What Jewes ther be ỹ Truth to by,
I nēd not much to say:
And Judasses that traiterously,
sēke Truth, him to betray.
Euen here at hand hard by the dore,
of both those sorts there bē:
Which persecute Truth euermore,
that he can not go frē.

¶ Truth to exile hath oft ben brought,
and driuen from place to place:
His confusion hath ben wrought,

by them of little grace.
But yet how Truth pzeuayled hath,
and wozne the garland græne:
This day doth teach that rule and path
which thought not to be sæne.

¶ Thus God the Truth pserued hath,
and set him in the seate:
Foz to appoint the perfect path,
which is both right and feate.
Walke therfoze in Truth ye godly,
let yll men walke their way:
To God and Truth do ye now hy,
and take your ioyfull day.

Stand fast to Truth sticke to your hold
feare not the cruell kyng:
Ye shall not hurt you (be you bold)
in any maner thyng.
Foz God is yours, and you are Gods,
in God dwell you now styll:
Although ye haue these greuous rods,
it is not foz none yll.

Foz whom the Lozde doth loue be sure,
him doth he chastice, why?
Because he wyll haue vs full pure,
his name to magnifie.
Foz tribulation is our parte,
yf Chzist we wyll confesse:

Confesse

to the afflicted church.

Confesse him styll, feare not the smart,
you shall haue lyfe eneleſſe.

Farewel brethren, be of good chere,
in Truth haue you your stay:
For God is Truth (your father dere)
which wyll kepe you alway.
Feare not the crosse, nor yet the payne
that you a whyle doe suffer:
You shall haue heauen for your gayne,
which lyfe doth last for euer.

FINIS.

THE. 67. PSALME.

Dauid here in this Psalme doth teach
the faithfull for to pray,
The Lorde to shew his countinaunce
that they go not a stray.
And that his mightie power be knowne,
which is of noble fame:
That all the nations on the earth,
may prayse his holy name.

GOD be mercifull vnto vs, Psal. 67.
thus doth king Dauid write:
In ỹ thræ scoze & seuẽth psalme
he doth the same resite.
And blesse thou vs (saith he) O Lorde,
for that we stand in nede:
The light of thy countinaunce show,
thy mercy geue with spede.

That

THE .67. PSALME.

That thy right way here on the earth,
vnto vs may be knowne:
And thy moſt high and ſauyng helth,
vnto all natons ſhowne.
Let the people prayſe thée (O God)
let all the people ſyng:
O let the nations on the earth,
acknowledge thée their kyng.

For thou the righteous wylt defend,
and gouerne euery where:
And make the wicked on a row,
of thée to ſtand in feare.
Let the people prayſe thée O God,
now let them all thée prayſe:
In this our moſt troubleſome time,
and in theſe heauy dayes.

Then ſhal the earth her encreaſe bring
and thou our God ſhalt geue
Thy only good and great bleſſyng,
that we with thée may liue.
God ſhall vs bleſſe for euermore,
and vs defend from ſin:
And all the endes of the whole world,
ſhall ſtand in awe of him.

Glorie be to the Father high,
and to the Son therfore:
And to the Holy ghoſt which ſpirit,
kepe vs for euermore. ¶ FINIS.

¶ THE .100. PSALME.

Dauid in this Psalme doth exhort,
to prayse the Lorde alwayes:
For that he did vs make and port,
and guydes vs all our dayes.



Be ye ioyfull in the Lorde,
serue ye him all ye landes:
With gladnes cum, & wt a song,
commit you to his handes.
The Lorde our God he did vs make,
of this we may be sure:
Not we our selues, we are his folke,
and shepe of his pasture.

Now let vs go in to his gates,
with thanks to geue him prayse:
In to his court euen for to speake,
good of his name alwayes.
For why? the Lorde is gracious,
his mercy is full sure:
His Truth doth euerlastyngly,
for euermore endure.

¶ FINIS.

Christ speaketh to the people.

Whosoeuer is of the truth, heareth my voyce. John. 18.
My shepe do heare it, and I do know them, John. 10.
and they do folow me, and I geue them euerlast-
yng life. He that hath my precepts & kepeth them, John. 14.
he it is that loueth me. If any man loueth me, he
wyl kepe my worde, my father wyl loue him, and
we shal come to him, and dwel with him. Walke John. 12.
whyle ye haue lyght, least darkenes ouerwhelme
you,

yon, he that walketh in darkenes, knoweth not whether he goeth. Whyle ye haue light, beleue in the light: that ye may be chyldren of light. He that
John. 8 is of God, heareth Gods word: yf any man kepe my worde, he shall neuer see death.

¶ God to the Prophet, or Preacher.

Jere. 26. STand in the courte of the Lordes house, and speake vnto al the cities of Juda which come to worship in the Lords house, al the wordes that I haue cõmaũded thee to speake, kepe not a word backe. Yf so be thei wil harken, & turne euery man from his euyl way, that I may repent mee of the plague which I haue determyned to bryng vpon them because of the wickednesse of their workes, and ỹ shalt say vnto them: thus saith the Lord. &c

¶ Moses, or Preacher, to the people.

Deut. 28 IF thou shalt obey diligently the voyce of the Lorde thy God, and obserue & do all his commaundements which I commaund thee this day, then the Lord thy God wil set thee on high aboue al the nations of the earth, and al these blessynges shal come on thee, and ouertake thee: yf thou shalt obey the voyce of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the citie, and blessed in the feelde. &c. But yf thou wylt not obey the voyce of the Lorde thy God to kepe & to do al his commaundementes and his ordinaũces which I commaund thee this day, then al these curses shall come vpon thee, and ouertake thee. Cursed shalt thou be in the towne and in the feeld. &c. From the which curses, the Lorde deliuer vs, and graũt vs to be diligent hearers of his holy worde, and faithfull followers of the same: for his deare sonnes sake Jesus Christ, to whom with the Holy ghost, three persons and one God, be al honor & glory for euer. Amen.

¶ FINIS. (q) John Pits.